



EXCLUSIVE CURRENT AFFAIRS BULLETIN

THE 4 LABOUR CODES

The four labour codes : Code on Wages, Code on Social Security, Industrial Relations Code, and Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (OSH) Code - Aim to modernise India's labour framework.

● As labour is a Concurrent List subject, implementation depends on states.

Why in the News :

- ▶ Government notified the four labour codes after five years of consultations, merging 29 central labour laws.
- ▶ Marks India's first uniform national wage system and consolidated social security architecture.
- ▶ Reforms aim to boost compliance and manufacturing efficiency.
- ▶ Trade unions warn of reduced strike power, easier layoffs, and greater vulnerability for informal workers.

■ Code on Wages: Key Changes :

- Uniform definition of wages across states and sectors.
- National floor wage ensures states set minimum wages above central baseline.
- Time-bound wage payments : 2 days

after resignation/termination, 7 days after wage period.

- Covers all employees irrespective of industry or wage level.
- Strengthened overtime rules: 48 hours weekly cap; 12-hour daily shift allowed with breaks.
- **Code on Social Security:**
- Unified social security system covering unorganised, informal, gig, and platform workers.
- National Social Security Board created for schemes and registration.
- Corporate co-contribution proposed for gig (platform) workers.
- ESIC coverage expanded to new sectors; plantation workers may join voluntarily.
- Formalisation promoted via maternity benefits, gratuity reforms, fixed-term employee coverage.
- **Industrial Relations Code:**
- Stricter strike rules: 60-day notice; no strike during conciliation and 14 days after.

- Layoff threshold raised from 100 to 300 workers for prior permission.
- Negotiating Union: 51% membership required; councils for multi-union setups.
- Criticised for reducing bargaining power.
- **OSH Code:** (Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code)
- Standardised norms for working hours, safety, and facilities.
- Annual free health check-ups for workers in notified industries.
- Women allowed in all sectors and night shifts with safety conditions.
- Increased employer accountability, especially for hazardous sectors and migrant labour.

Impact of New Labour Codes on India's Labour Landscape :

- ▶ India has rapidly expanded social security coverage from 19% in 2015 to 64% in 2025, and the New Labour Codes accelerate this trajectory by making benefits portable, inclusive and technology driven.
- ▶ Formalisation of the workforce
- ▶ Expanded ESIC and PF coverage
- ▶ Increased women's participation
- ▶ Better safety and health standards
- ▶ Boost to employment and industry growth.

[PYQ UPSC 2024. Q. Discuss the merits and demerits of the four 'Labour Codes' in the context of labour market reforms in India. What has been the progress so far in this regard?

Our modern system stands on the labour of the working class who built it piece by piece.



INSOLVENCY & BANKRUPTCY CODE (IBC)



The Finance Ministry has reviewed delays in admitting and resolving cases at several National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) benches. It has urged banks to adopt a more strategic and coordinated approach to improve the IBC process for faster resolution and better value recovery.

What is the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code (IBC)..?

- Enacted in 2016, based on recommendations of the T.K. Vishwanathan Bankruptcy Law Reforms Committee (2015).
- Designed to create a unified, time-bound, and creditor-driven system for resolving financial distress of companies and individuals.
- Introduced at a time when NPAs were rising and older recovery tools like SARFAESI and Lok Adalats were slow and ineffective.
- Ensures that when a business defaults on loans, creditors can recover value quickly through Resolution (restructuring, sale to new owners), or Liquidation.
- Aims to protect asset value, strengthen the credit ecosystem, and unlock stalled capital to support economic growth.

Regulating and Adjudicating Authorities :

- ▶ Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)
- ▶ The statutory regulator established

under IBC, 2016.

- ▶ Frames rules and regulations for insolvency resolution.
- ▶ Includes members from:
 - ▶ Ministry of Finance
 - ▶ Ministry of Corporate Affairs
 - ▶ Reserve Bank of India

Adjudicating Authorities:

- ▶ NCLT – Handles cases involving companies (corporate persons).
- ▶ DRT – Handles insolvency cases of individuals and partnership firms.

Committee of Creditors (CoC):

- ▶ CoC is the main decision making authority during the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP).
- ▶ Composed mainly of financial creditors.
- ▶ Examines all resolution plans and approves or rejects proposals with a 66% majority vote.

IBC Process :

- **Trigger of Insolvency** : A financial creditor, operational creditor, or the debtor itself can file an application upon default.
- **Admission by NCLT** : NCLT examines and admits/rejects the application within 14 days.
- **Appointment of Interim Resolution Professional (IRP)** : IRP takes charge of the company, secures assets, and gathers financial information.
- **Formation of CoC** : IRP forms the Committee of Creditors, which decides the company's revival or sale and may confirm or replace the IRP.
- **Resolution Plan** : Resolution applicants submit plans, CoC evaluates and approves with 66% votes. If no plan is approved, the company proceeds to liquidation.

India to Host the 2030 Commonwealth Games :



The Prime Minister announced that India has successfully won the bid to host the Centenary Commonwealth Games (CWG) 2030. Ahmedabad (Gujarat) will be the host city for CWG 2030.

About the Commonwealth Games (CWG) :

- ▶▶ CWG is the second largest multi sport event in the world after the Olympics.
- ▶▶ It features athletes from 71 nations and territories, most of which were formerly part of the British Empire.

Historical Background :

- ▶▶ The CWG was conceptualized by Canadian sportswriter Melville Marks Robinson.
- ▶▶ Its roots trace back to the 1911 Inter-Empire Championships held in London during King George V's coronation celebrations.
- ▶▶ The first official Games then called the British Empire Games were held in 1930 in Hamilton, Canada.
- ▶▶ Except for 1942 and 1946 (due to World War II), the Games have been held every four years.
- ▶▶ The event was formally renamed the Commonwealth Games in 1978.

Governing Body :

The Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) is the main authority responsible for overseeing and managing the Games.

India at the Commonwealth Games :

- India last hosted the CWG in 2010 (New Delhi), achieving its best ever performance : 101 medals in total, 38 gold medals, Finished 2nd overall.
- India's second best performance was at the 2002 Manchester Games, where it won 69 medals, including 30 golds.

SURYAKIRAN XIX – 2025

The 19th edition of the **India – Nepal** joint military exercise, SURYAKIRAN XIX – 2025, was conducted in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand, to strengthen military cooperation between the two countries.

SURYAKIRAN :

- The joint exercise first started in 2011. It aims to practice Sub-Conventional Operations under the UN Mandate, crucial for peacekeeping and conflict management missions.
- Training areas include Jungle Warfare, Counter Terrorism in Mountain Terrain, Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief (HADR), Medical Response, Environmental Conservation, and Integrated Ground Aviation Operations.
- The 19th edition integrates emerging technologies, such as Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), drone-based Intelligence, AI-enabled decision



tools, unmanned logistics platforms, and armoured protection systems.
 India- Nepal Defence Relations :
 ■ **Military Ties:** The 1816 Treaty of Sugauli, an agreement between the Gurkha chiefs of Nepal and the British Indian government, ended the Anglo-Nepalese War (1814–16) and paved the way for Nepali recruitment

into the Indian (erstwhile British Indian) Army.
 ■ **Treaty of Peace and Friendship 1950:** The Treaty of Peace and Friendship 1950 granted national treatment to each other's citizens in economic participation, property ownership, trade, residence and movement.

SAMUDRAYAAN

India's first manned deep-ocean submersible have been postponed due to delays in procuring syntactic foam cladding from France. India's first human deep-sea mission. It is a key component of the Deep Ocean Mission. The project aims to send three humans in a manned submersible (Matsya-6000) to a depth of 6,000 metres in the ocean by 2027

About Syntactic Foam :

A specialised composite material made of hollow micro balloons embedded in resin. It offers high buoyancy and can withstand extreme deep-sea pressure, making it essential for submersible operations.

About Samudrayaan :

- ▶▶ Part of the Deep Ocean Mission (DOM) under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- ▶▶ Developed by the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai.
- ▶▶ Aimed at enabling manned exploration of deep-sea resources and collecting rock and soil samples from the ocean floor.

Features of the Manned Submersible (MATSYA-6000) :

- Capacity: 3 persons
- Maximum Depth: 6,000 metres
- Hull: Titanium sphere (final design)
- Buoyancy: Provided by



syntactic foam
 ● **Primary Objectives:** Deep-sea mineral exploration, Study of polymetallic nodules, Geological and biological sampling.

Significance of the Depth Capability :

Only a few nations the USA, Russia, China, Japan, and France have achieved comparable manned deep-sea missions.

WHO Guidelines: GLP-1 Therapies



The World Health Organization (WHO) now recognises obesity as a chronic disease requiring lifelong, comprehensive care.

It has released its first-ever guidelines on the use of GLP-1 (Glucagon-Like Peptide-1) weight loss medicines to address the global obesity crisis. In India (NFHS Report) 24% of women are overweight, 23% of men are overweight.

About GLP-1 Medicines :

- GLP-1 drugs can result in 15–20% weight loss, comparable to bariatric surgery.
- They show added health benefits for: Cardiovascular diseases, Kidney disorders, Liver-related conditions, Sleep apnea.

Key Features of WHO's GLP-1 Guidelines :

Conditional long-term use of GLP-1 medicines allowed for adults with obesity. Not recommended for pregnant women due to insufficient long term safety data.

Medicines must be combined with :

- ▶▶ Healthy diet planning
- ▶▶ Regular physical activity
- ▶▶ Intensive behavioural and lifestyle interventions
- ▶▶ GLP-1 therapy must be part of a comprehensive, lifelong obesity-care plan.
- ▶▶ WHO warns of limited global access, noting that current production will meet less than 10% of the global need by 2030.

Genome Edited (GE) Crops in India



- India's GM crop progress has remained stagnant since Bt cotton (2006), with no new commercial GM approvals.
- In contrast, genome-edited (GE) crops such as GE rice varieties Samba Mahsuri and MTU-1010, and GE mustard in advanced trials are gaining policy and scientific momentum. Recent Policy and Scientific Developments Advancing GE Research in India.

Streamlined & Liberalized Regulations :

- MoEFCC exempted GE plants without foreign DNA from stringent biosafety rules applied to GM crops.
- GE crops require approval only from an Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBSC), unlike GM crops which need Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) clearance for field trials and commercialization.

Increased Funding & Policy Support :

- Union Budget 2023–24 allocated 500 crore to strengthen GE crop research and breeding programmes.

Development of Indigenous Gene-Editing Tool :

- ICAR scientists developed a native genome-editing platform using the TnpB protein.
- TnpB is one-third the size of CRISPR-Cas9, making gene delivery simpler and more efficient.
- The tool is patent-free for Indian researchers, reducing dependence

on expensive foreign technologies.

What is Genome Editing?

▶▶ Genome editing allows precise modification of DNA by adding, deleting, or altering genetic material at specific locations.

▶▶ Major tools : CRISPR-Cas9, TALENs, Zinc Finger Nucleases.

How CRISPR-Cas9 Works :

- **Guide RNA (CRISPR)** : Locates targeted DNA sequence.
- **Cas9 enzyme**: Cuts DNA at the exact site.

Cell repair machinery :

Disables genes through imperfect repair, Corrects mutations using a DNA template, or Inserts new DNA to add functions.

Why Gene Editing Is Preferred Over GM in Crops :

- More precise and widely applicable.
- No foreign DNA - more social acceptance, not labelled GMO.
- Improves local varieties without altering traits.
- Faster breeding and commercialization.

Key Applications of GE :

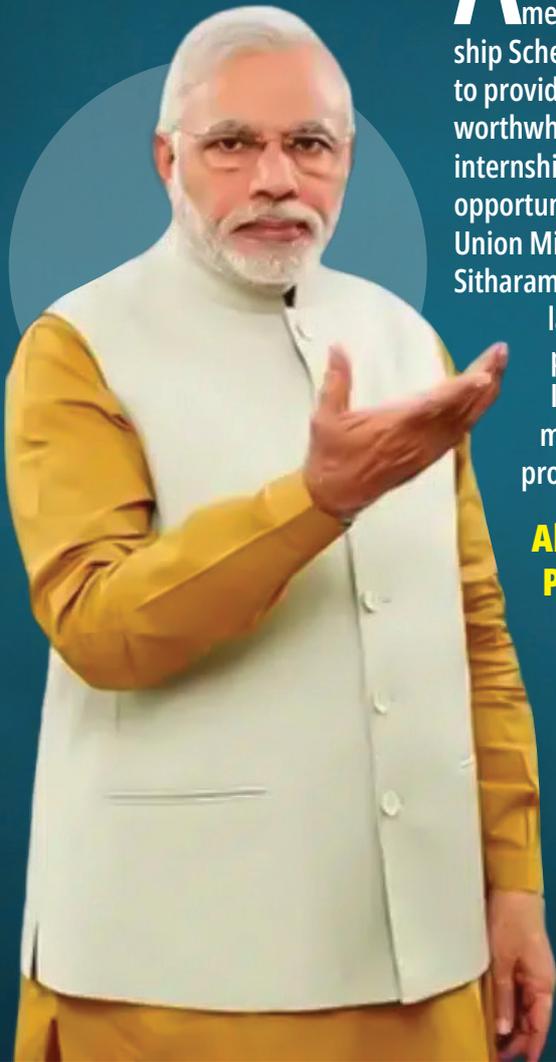
Medicine: gene therapy, cancer treatment, viral disease strategies.

Agriculture: higher yield, resilience, pest/disease resistance, better nutrition.

Research: knock-out studies to understand gene functions.



The PM Internship Scheme



A flagship initiative of the Indian government, the PM Internship Scheme is intended to provide the youth with worthwhile and practical internship opportunities.

Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman recently

launched a dedicated mobile application for the Prime Minister Internship Scheme and urged more companies to join the programme.

About the PM Internship Scheme :

- The PM Internship Scheme is a noteworthy initiative introduced by the Government of India to create meaningful internship opportunities for young people across the country.
- It seeks to offer 12 months internships to individuals aged 21–24 from low income households, placing them in



India's top 500 companies.

■ In its pilot phase, the scheme aims to support 1.25 lakh youth, with a long term target of providing internship opportunities to one crore young individuals over five years.

■ The program covers 24 diverse sectors, such as oil and gas, energy, travel and hospitality, automotive, banking, and financial services.

Eligibility Criteria :

- Candidates who have completed Class 10, Class 12, ITI, Polytechnic, or Diploma programs.
- Recent graduates from non-premier institutions.
- Applicants from households with an annual income of ₹8 lakh or less in 2023–24.
- The family must not have any member employed in a government job.
- Students from premier institutions like IITs, IIMs, and National Law Universities, as well as those holding professional qualifications (CA, MBA, MBBS, etc.), are excluded to ensure wider participation from underrepresented groups.

HORNBILL FESTIVAL: 2025

The 26th edition of the Hornbill Festival has begun in Nagaland.

It highlights the cultural diversity of the Naga tribes.

Boosts tourism and promotes Northeast cultural identity.

What is the Hornbill Festival?

- First organised: 2000
- Also known as: "Festival of Festivals"



Purpose:

- Promote inter-tribal interaction
- Preserve indigenous Naga heritage
- Blend traditional + contemporary art forms

Organised by :

- Department of Tourism, Govt. of Nagaland
 - Department of Art & Culture, Govt. of Nagaland
 - Venue: Naga Heritage Village, Kisama (12 km from Kohima)
- Named after: The Hornbill bird,



culturally significant to Naga tribes.

[PYQ 2018, Q. Consider the following pairs: Tradition State

1. Chapchar Kut festival — Mizoram.
2. Khongjom Parba ballad — Manipur.
3. Thang-Ta dance — Sikkim.

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only , (b) 1 and 2 , (c) 3 only
(d) 2 and 3]